

## Preparedness and Planning

### Michigan Long-Term Care Toolkit

The Michigan Department of Community Health, Office of Public Health Preparedness is excited to provide two new emergency preparedness planning tools for long-term care facilities. The first tool is a DVD which explains the importance of being prepared for any type of emergency such as a natural disaster, public health emergency or possible terrorist related incident. The second tool is the [Long-Term Care Toolkit](#) which contains sample policies, procedures and emergency plan templates that facilities can use when developing their own emergency plans. Starting the week of September 29, both tools were mailed to all long-term care facilities/associations, local health departments, local emergency managers, and hospitals. Additional copies of these materials can be requested by calling (517) 335-8150.



### Public Health Emergency Legal Preparedness Clearinghouse

On October 21, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Public Health Law Program gave a one-hour, national briefing on ten new tools for use in assessing and strengthening organizations' and jurisdictions' legal preparedness. The focus was on all-hazards public health emergencies, in community, state, and tribal settings. Special attention was given to legal preparedness for pandemic influenza. Many public and private partners contributed to the development of these tools, which are being implemented throughout the United States. [The tools](#) and [PowerPoint slides](#) are accessible online.

### Invisible Wounds of War: Psychological and Cognitive Injuries

Since October 2001, approximately 1.6 million U.S. troops have been deployed for Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq. Early evidence suggests that many returning service members may be suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and depression. Traumatic brain injury is also a major concern. But there is limited evidence about the scope of the problem or the most effective treatments. RAND assessed the [post-deployment health-related needs](#) associated with post-traumatic stress disorder, major depression, and traumatic brain injury; examined the treatment capacity of the current health care system, and estimated the costs of providing quality health care to all military members who need it. [Additional materials](#) are available online.

## News

### New Home Healthcare Tools

A new guide from the Department of Homeland Security offers tips on supplies necessary for home healthcare preparedness. The National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC) also developed templates for use by home healthcare agencies. See [page 2](#) for more information.

### Winter Weather Awareness

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm has declared November 9 to 15, as Winter Hazards Awareness Week in Michigan. For more information on how to prepare for severe winter weather, see [page 3](#).

### E. coli Outbreak Update

Since September 1, thirty-eight cases of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 with the same genetic fingerprint have been reported. See [page 3](#) for more details.

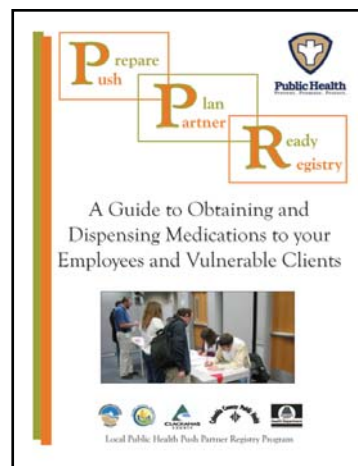
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### **The Push Partner Registry**

The Push Partner Registry (PPR) is a five-county public health partnership with community-based organizations to dispense medications to at-risk populations during an emergency. The intent of the registry is to create a comprehensive database of regional private partners and community-based organizations that serve at-risk populations and are willing to serve as a private point-of-dispensing (POD) site during an emergency. Participating organizations receive several benefits from their involvement, including the opportunity to offer the medication to their clients, along with staff members and their families. The initiative may assist the entire community by reducing the number of citizens seeking medications at public dispensing sites. Materials included as part of this practice include a guide to distribute to potential organizational partners, a sample database, a word document containing suggestions for printing and reproducing the kit materials, and answers to frequently asked questions. The "PPR Guide to Obtaining and Dispensing Medications to your Employees and Vulnerable Clients" focuses mainly on dispensing doxycycline during an anthrax emergency, but it could easily be adapted to other public health emergencies.

The guide includes several materials to aid public health leaders in recruiting organizational partners and establishing a POD, including a cover letter, an enrollment form, a dispensing plan template, job action sheets, a sample POD intake form and flow chart, and a resource and reference list. The materials were developed at an especially opportune time, when many public health agencies are currently investigating alternate dispensing mode methods to reach vulnerable populations.



### **Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act Q & A**

The Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act added new authorities under the Public Health Service Act to alleviate concerns about liability related to the manufacture, testing, development, distribution, administration and use of countermeasures against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear agents of terrorism, epidemics, and pandemics. Questions have arisen from the manufacturing industry and the healthcare community regarding the scope of protections available under the PREP Act. This website reviews some of the PREP Act's provisions.

### **Preparedness Planning for Home Healthcare Providers**

During a disaster, many healthcare professionals care for patients who do not require hospitalization or cannot be admitted into overwhelmed health care facilities. This website from the Department of Homeland Security provides guidance on preparedness supplies suggested for home healthcare providers, how to make an effective emergency plan, information on going to a shelter, how to shelter-in-place, and household pet and service animal considerations.

### **Emergency Preparedness for Home Health Agencies**

The National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC) Emergency Preparedness Workgroup was established to develop an all-hazards emergency preparedness plan to be used by home care and hospice providers. The materials developed consist of templates of tools to assist in emergency preparedness for agencies, patients and their families, and agency staff. In addition, the incident command system has been outlined and included to instruct homecare and hospice providers of state and local emergency response structures.

## Winter Hazards Awareness 2008

With some areas of the state experiencing near record snowfalls last year, it is important for Michigan residents to focus attention on winter safety. Heavy



snow, extreme cold, ice and wind routinely affect Michigan during winter and pose dangers to life and property. In an effort to raise awareness about the potential dangers, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm has declared November 9 to 15, as Winter Hazards Awareness Week in Michigan. For more information on how to prepare for severe winter weather, see the Michigan State Police's "[Winter Hazards Awareness](#)" guide and visit the [Michigan Committee for Severe Weather Awareness website](#).

## Preparedness and Emergency Response Research Centers

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [awarded \\$10.9 million](#) in grants to establish Preparedness and Emergency Response Research Centers at seven public health schools. Mandated by the federal "Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act of 2006", the research centers will evaluate the structure, capabilities and performance of emergency response systems to improve public health preparedness at the local, state and federal levels. Each of the seven participating schools will have a unique research priority. For example, the Harvard School of Public Health will use its grant of \$1,717,286 to generate criteria and metrics for measuring effectiveness and efficiency, while Johns Hopkins University will use \$1,495,398 to assess and improve preparedness for vulnerable populations. According to the CDC, the new research centers will build upon the agency's existing partnerships with public health schools through its Centers of Public Health Preparedness initiative, which was created in 2000 to strengthen terrorism and emergency preparedness by tapping academic expertise to meet state and local health agency needs.

## Surveillance

### *E. coli* Outbreak Update

Since September 1, thirty-eight cases of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 with the same genetic fingerprint have been reported to Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) from various counties. Although twenty-one individuals were hospitalized, there were no deaths associated with this outbreak. Based on epidemiological investigation, iceberg lettuce has been identified as the source of the illness outbreak. Fresh Pak/Aunt Mid's was the common processor of the lettuce supplied to the illnesses at Michigan State University and the Lenawee County Jail. The heads of lettuce supplied to Aunt Mid's came from California, but the point at which the lettuce was contaminated is still unknown.

## Pandemic Planning

### Infrastructure Standards for Mass Antibiotic Dispensing

Authors from the Rand Corporation created a series of recommendations for mass antibiotic dispensing. The authors used panel experts and computer simulations to write these guidelines which can be utilized in any size jurisdiction's dispensing activities. [The recommendations](#) are available online.

### **Global Report on Avian and Pandemic Influenza Readiness**

The United Nations and the World Bank created this report in response to questions at the International Ministerial Conference on Avian and Pandemic Influenza held in New Delhi. The report addresses how funding is currently being utilized and how the world agencies will proceed with further funding. The full [progress report](#) is available online.

### **A Pandemic's Potential Insurance Impacts**

Lloyd's, an international insurance agency from the United Kingdom, created a risk report on worldwide insurance impacts of a pandemic of influenza. The report covers how past pandemics have impacted the world economic climate and how a pandemic today would affect businesses and thus insurance. The [full report](#) is available online.

### **GAO Report on HHS's Pandemic Guidance**

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) was asked to provide information on the progress of the Department of Health and Human Services's (HHS) plans for responding to a pandemic, including analyzing how HHS plans to (1) use pharmaceutical interventions to treat infected individuals and protect the critical workforce and (2) use nonpharmaceutical interventions to slow the spread of disease. [GAO recommended](#) that HHS expeditiously finalize guidance to assist state and local jurisdictions to determine how to effectively use limited supplies of antivirals and pre-pandemic vaccine in a pandemic, including prioritizing target groups for pre-pandemic vaccine.

## **Regional News**

### **D1RMC Concludes a Successful Summer**

This fall concludes a very busy exercise season for District 1 Regional Medical Response Coalition (D1RMRC) and its partners. D1RMRC held an evacuation exercise at three hospital sites and provided an opportunity for the local communities to test both hospital and community evacuation plans. In addition, they also held a mass fatality exercise at two locations that included unprecedented participation of emergency management, public health officials, medical examiners, EMS providers, hospitals, and the Michigan International Speedway. Both of these events will carry forward into the new season. Finally, the District 1 Coordination Exercise integrated the communications and response capabilities of the EMS Mobile Support Units. The D1RMRC has supported the MiSTART triage program and will continue to extend it to a multitude of first response and community support groups. The D1RMRC has been active in supporting hospital decontamination and surge preparedness exercises.

Internally, John Glandon was appointed Interim Bioterrorism Coordinator, as the search for a permanent replacement begins.

District 1 will start the new year in full stride as they continue development of evacuation and sheltering-in-place exercises, two mass fatality exercises, and support for the decontamination and coordination exercises.

The D1RMRC extends its thanks to the wide team of partners who continue to work so hard.

For more information on Region 1's preparedness activities, please contact K. Don Edwards DO ([kdeerdoc@cs.com](mailto:kdeerdoc@cs.com)), Region 1 Medical Director.



# Training & Education

Date/Time	Description	Location
Oct. 27, 2008	<b>Altered Standards of Care &amp; Surge Capacity Conference</b> This conference will bring together an influential gathering of medical and public health leaders to teach preparedness planners at the federal, state, regional, community, and health systems levels how to plan and support surge capacity in healthcare systems and develop altered standards of care to meet mass casualty needs during all-hazard and hazard-specific emergencies. At <a href="#">this conference</a> , best practices for preparedness will be highlighted for disasters, acts of terrorism, and pandemic diseases.	Washington, DC
Oct. 29, 2008 1:00pm	<b>PlanFirst Webcasts on PanFlu</b> Speakers will provide formal remarks regarding the nation's pandemic planning effort. Then, there will be a roundtable discussion with special guests to discuss the nation's level of pandemic preparedness and related issues.	OPHP Large Training Room (517) 335-8150
Nov. 3, 2008	<b>Risk and Crisis Communication in the 21st Century</b> <a href="#">This forum</a> will examine changes and progress in risk and crisis communications, looming opportunities and threats to watch for, and practical applications for policy and practice. Through expert perspectives and small group interaction, it will present insights, analysis, and forecasts and will address top trends, best practices, and "futures-framework".	Washington, DC
Nov. 13, 2008	<b>The NIOSH DREAM Workshop</b> <a href="#">The workshop</a> will convene subject matter experts, stakeholders and other interested parties to improve the prevention of disease and injury to people who work through supporting research, promotion of best practices, communication of effective policies, and engagement in productive partnerships. The broad aim of the breakout sessions is to seek stakeholder input in shaping a NIOSH research agenda for direct-reading methods as related to worker exposure in the workplace. The proceedings of the workshop will be published on the NIOSH Direct-Reading Methods website for comments.	Hilton Crystal City - Washington, DC
Nov. 13, 2008	<b>International Bird Flu Summit</b> Top leaders and key decision-makers of major companies representing a broad range of industries will meet with distinguished scientists, public health officials, law enforcers, first responders, and other experts to discuss pandemic prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. Breakout topics will include (but are not limited to): surveillance and data management, community strategies, businessbased planning, and school-based planning.	Las Vegas, NV

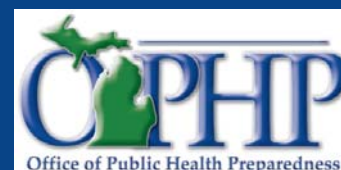


Photo by Danielle Brophy

Date/Time	Description	Location
Nov. 14, 2008	<b>Budgeting and Cost Accounting</b> This two-session course (November 14 and 21) will cover the development and use of budgets as planning and management tools for organizations. Considering the organization as a firm that must be managed within a set of financial constraints, participants will develop an understanding of those constraints, in terms of costs and revenues. Participants will learn how to use various measures of cost in making, planning, and operating decisions for their organizations. As part of the course work, participants will apply concepts in the course to situations faced by their organizations. Note, the fee for this course is \$135. To register and for more information, please visit the <a href="#">Michigan Public Health Training Center website</a> or email <a href="mailto:mphtc@umich.edu">mphtc@umich.edu</a> .	Taylor, MI (734) 615-9439
Nov. 20-21, 2008	<b>Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Train-the-Trainer</b> This <u>two-day course</u> will provide participants with the skills to teach the CERT program, while emphasizing the basic course along with the development of a program in their community. Previous experience providing and facilitating instruction for adults is desirable. Note: This is a course for CERT trainers and program managers-not for individuals desiring to become CERT team members.	Auburn Hills, MI
Dec. 4, 2008	<b>Developing Volunteer Resources</b> This <u>one-day course</u> is designed to cover a broad range of issues in disaster volunteerism expanding on the concepts presented in the prerequisite FEMA Independent Study course, Managing and Developing Volunteers. Topics will include spontaneous volunteerism in disasters, liability issues, marketing, recruitment, and recognition of volunteers. There is no fee for this course. Visit the Michigan State Police website for further details and registration information.	Lansing, MI
Feb. 3, 2009	<b>Emergency Preparedness for Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs</b> This workshop will examine existing and/or needed standards for emergency preparedness for persons with disabilities and special needs. This event will work to identify what standards currently exist and in what areas new standards need to be developed, followed by actionable recommendations for the timely development of standards in the identified needs areas. Please contact Matt Deane by email at <a href="mailto:mdeane@ansi.org">mdeane@ansi.org</a> for more information.	Kellogg Conference Hotel - Washington, DC



Mailing Address:  
 Office of Public Health Preparedness  
 Capitol View Building - 201 Townsend Street - Lansing, MI 48913  
 (517) 335-8150 — <http://www.michigan.gov/ophp>



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